

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 SAM-01 /059 W

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R 260736Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0073

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS/OKINAWA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PROP CH

SUBJ: INCREASING BITTERNESS AGAINST TENG HSIAP-PING

REF: PEKING 743 HONG KONG 4561

SUMMARY: AN ARTICLE IN MAY'S RED FLAG PROVIDES ADDITIONAL PROOF THAT THOSE PROMOTING THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING ARE TRYING TO FURTHER STRIP HIM OF HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP. IF THIS PART OF THE POLITBURO DECISION SHOULD CRUMBLE, IT COULD LEAD TO A BROADENING OF THE CAMPAIGN BEYOND TENG. END SUMMARY

1. ALTHOUGH NOT ORGANIZATIONALLY BINDING TENG TO THE PERPETRATORS OF THE APRIL 5 DISORDERS AT TIEN AN MEN, CHIH HENG, WRITING IN MAY'S RED FLAG, LINKS TENG HSIAO-PING "POLITICALLY" WITH THEM IN AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO

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THOROUGHLY DISCREDIT TENG. THUS, LIKE OTHER RECENT PIECES

(REFTELS), THE PROMOTERS OF THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN ARE LAYING OUT A BARRAGE OF PROPAGANDA INSINUATING THAT TENG CREATED THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTS AT TIEN AN MEN AND SO SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM. ONCE SO BRANDED, IT WOULD SEEM AN EASY STEP TO PROPOSE THAT SUCH A PERSON BE STRIPPED OF HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP, THE LAST OFFICIAL STATUS REMAINING TO TENG.

2. IN ADDITION, WHILE THE CHIH HENG ARTICLE DEALS MAINLY WITH TENG HSIAO-PING, IT ALSO MENTIONS THE PRESENCE OF OTHER CAPITALIST ROADERS WITHIN THE PARTY AND THE NEED TO DEAL WITH THEM. THE TWO ISSUES ARE OBVIOUSLY CONNECTED, AND ONE CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL THAT SHOULD THE EFFORT SUCCEED IN TOTALLY DISCREDITING TENG, THE NEXT PHASE WOULD BE TO EXPAND THE TARGETS OF ATTACK. THE ARTICLE'S INSISTENCE ON THE USE OF REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE TO SUPPRESS COUNTER-REVOLUTION AND ON THE NEED TO MOLD REVOLUTIONARY OPINION IN THE FACE OF CLASS ENEMY RUMOR-MONGERING ALSO IMPLIES FURTHER FORCEFUL EFFORTS TO GUIDE THE CAMPAIGNING THE WAY ITS PROMOTERS PREFER.

3. OTHER ARTICLES NOT YET IN FROM RED FLAG COULD ELABORATE ON TENG'S GUILT. THE WEEK-EARLY RED FLAG CARRIES COMMENTARIES BY LIANG HSIAO, AND BY NOTED REGIME MODELS TACHAI, TACHING, HSIAO-CHINCHUANG, AND THE "SIXTH COMPANY" UNDER THE PEKING GARRISON, ALL OF WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE FOLLOWING THE CAMPAIGN PROMOTERS' GUIDELINES.

4. COMMENT: THE APRIL 7 REMOVAL OF TENG FROM OFFICIAL STATUS WHILE ALLOWING HIM TO MAINTAIN PARTY MEMBERSHIP WAS OBVIOUSLY UNSATISFACTORY TO THE CAMPAIGN'S PROMOTERS. THEIR MEDIA SPLASH, INCLUDING BRINGING OUT THE RED FLAG EARLY, BEFORE IT GOT BURIED IN MAY DAY ACTIVITIES, SEEMS DESIGNED TO SUSTAIN AND THEN BUILD FURTHER PRESSURE AGAINST TENG. WITH THE AVENUE OF CENTER MEDIA COMMENTARY APPARENTLY STILL OPEN TO THEM, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE RECENT EDITORIALS HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT BLAND, THE ANTI-TENG ADVOCATES MAY BE FORCED TO RELY ON THIS MEANS OF PROMOTING THEIR MESSAGE. AS SUCH, THE MOOD IN THE CENTER MEDIA IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ATMOSPHERE OF "MILITANT UNITY" WHICH THE REGIME TRIED TO CONVEY FOLLOWING THE RESOLUTIONS OF APRIL 7 AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY THE PROVINCIAL RALLIES. TOGETHER THESE CONTRASTING MOODS PLAY UP DIVISIVENESS IN THE REGIME, AND THE "SPLITS" WHICH THE REGIME ADMITTED TO BEFORE THE RESOLUTIONS SEEM AS STRONG AS EVER. CROSS

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